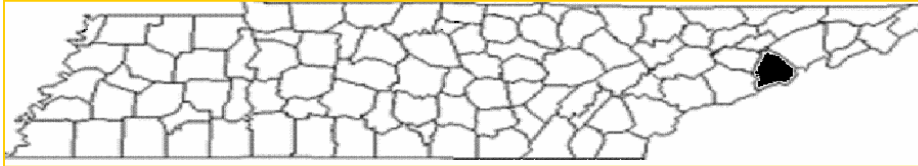


The Status of Women in Cocke County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN COCKE COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

INSIDE

Overview	1
County Summary	2
Overall County Rankings	3
About the Council and this Report	4

INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	71.00	90
Women's Annual Earnings	\$18,826	85
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	72.2%	42
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	41.1%	57
Female Unemployment Rate	9.7%	92
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	23.8%	79
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	58.25	72
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	30.4%	6
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	7.3%	83
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	63.9%	79
Female High School Dropout Rate	2.1%	5
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	92.3%	40
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	23.1%	88
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	14.1%	87
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	40.1	78

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Cocke County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

COCKE

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ Women in Cocke County have median annual earnings of \$18,826 compared with the median annual earnings their male counterparts which is \$26,062.
- ◇ Cocke County's female unemployment rate of 9.7% is slightly higher than the overall unemployment rate in Cocke County which is 8.8%. However, both rates are significantly higher than the overall Tennessee rate of 5.5%.
- ◇ 41.1% of Cocke County women participate in the workforce and women make up 46.0% of the county's labor force.
- ◇ Among all working individuals in Cocke County, 18.1% work in managerial or professional occupations, but when only female workers are considered, that number increases slightly to 23.8%.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ 63.9% of women in the county have a high school diploma or equivalency. The current high school drop-out rate of 2.1% ranks Cocke among of the best five counties in the state for that indicator.
- ◇ Just 7.3% of women have a four-year college degree in Cocke County. However, only 6.2% of all county residents have a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Almost a quarter of women in the county earn wages below the recognized poverty level.
- ◇ Though 18.7% of all families in Cocke County are in poverty, 38.8% of female-householder families with no husband present live in poverty.
- ◇ Though women account for 51.4% of the county population and make up 51.9% of eligible voters, only 3 out of 22 elected county positions are held by women.
- ◇ Despite making up 30.4% of the privately owned businesses in Cocke County, women-owned businesses only account for 4.7% of the total sales and receipts of private firms in the county.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

COCKE

		Cocke County	Rank of Cocke County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$18,826	85	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	72.2%	42	Davidson: 82.1%

Employment	Female Labor Force Participation Rate	41.1%	57	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	9.7%	92	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	23.8%	79	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	30.4%	6	Moore: 63.3%

Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	7.3%	83	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equivalency)	63.9%	79	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	2.1%	5	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%

Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	92.3%	40	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	23.1%	88	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	14.1%	87	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	40.1	78	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Cocke County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Co-Authors: Jennifer Rawls, Executive Director, Julia Reynolds, Research Analyst, and Lee Eubanks, Intern

Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties